

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

D A I L Y   P R E S S   B U L L E T I N

No. 23

Tel-Aviv, 12th August, 1948.

---

1) GETTING TOUGH?

("Mivrak")

We have become used to Bernadotte's insolence, to the rudeness of his treatment of Jewish pressmen, to the cynical mockery of his incessant (for 2 months!) promises to renew the flow of water to Jerusalem, but his last demand - that Jewish troops should evacuate two villages and a strategic hill, all of them captured before the truce became operative - is certainly a new record in effrontery.

At the time of writing the Government's reply is yet unknown. Though we have but little confidence in our Government (we know only too well its lack of courage, its servile subsiveness towards the Anglo-Americans, its bottomless political stupidity), we do not want to suspect it of something it has not yet been guilty of - an overt act of treason, for it would be an act of treason to surrender territory still wet with the blood of its gallant liberators. So while wondering at the slowness with which the Government is drafting its negative reply, we wonder much more at the unprecedented impudence of Bernadotte's demand.

The vantage points in question were captured by Jewish forces during their attempt to break through to Jerusalem, to free the road and to ensure an unimpeded flow of traffic and water to the Holy City. That the objective was not reached was no fault of our troops. Their victorious advance was abruptly stopped by the truce. They succeeded however to surround Latrun on three sides and got the Latrun-Ramallah road within the range of their guns. The vantage points in their possession are of a decisive importance. Their possession threatens the Arab Legion with defeat, that may well seal its fate.

The strategic position of the Legion being unfavourable, Bernadotte is entrusted with the task, that all previous attacks of the Legion have failed to achieve: to repulse the Jews. So Bernadotte rolls up his sleeves and issues an "order" to the Jewish forces to retreat from their vital positions, waves his fist and threatens... to report non-compliance to the Security Council.

The same day Bernadotte's troops attempted to dislodge the Jewish forces from their positions on the Mount Zion, that dominate the walls of the Old City. As the attack failed one may expect Bernadotte to startle the Army of Israel with a new "order" this time to evacuate Mount Zion.

When will Bernadotte's insolence meet with a tough reply it so richly deserves?

2) EXPLODED MYTH.

(Broadcast 12.8.48.)

What is going to be the Government's reaction to the wrecking of the Latrun pumping station? For a number of weeks Government spokesmen (Mr. Shertok among them) used to assure the public that the water supply to Jerusalem would be soon renewed. It was stated yesterday that Jewish engineers were already at work, effecting repairs. This morning the Latrun pumping station was damaged by an explosion, set off by the Arab Legion in utter disregard of the truce.

The Government's belief that the water supply would be renewed was based on faith in Security Council's decisions. Under the cease-fire terms the Arab Legion was to hand over the Latrun station to U. N. observers, who would ensure a regular supply of water to Jerusalem. The wrecking of the station has demonstrated again the absurdity of the situation now existing in Eretz-Israel, viz. that the truce conditions are binding on the Jews only and that likewise U. N. decisions are valid only in so far as they impose limitations and restrictions on the Jews. Those Jewish leaders who firmly believe that the Arab Legion must abide by the truce terms are guilty not only of day-dreaming, but of something much worse - misleading the Jewish public, as the case of the water supply has so amply demonstrated.

The orientation towards that phantom, the U.N.O., so insistently advocated by some Jewish leaders, has again lead to disappointment and failure. Whenever faced by the dilemma of seeking decision either by use of arms or through the medium of Bernadotte, with the first course offering a prospect of success, these leaders invariably choose the second alternative and... fail. As a result the State of the Plain has long been suffering from a

- 3 -

state of semi-war without decision, sapping our economic strength and undermining our morale. As a result the inhabitants of Jerusalem are doomed to suffer indefinitely from an acute shortage of water.

With the explosion at the Latrun pumping station has exploded also any faith the Jewish public may still have had in international agreements and truces. We do not know what the Government's reaction will be. We see only one possible way of action. Latrun is in the grasp of Jewish pincers. An order to our troops would suffice to have this strategically important locality liberated, thereby solving also the problem of freeing Jerusalem and supplying it with water.

The only reasonable reaction to the explosion at Latrun is its capture.

3)) A MAN PROPOSES, ..

It is strongly rumoured that Glubb Pasha is about to resign his position as the Commander of the Arab Legion and to devote his leisure to writing memoirs.

In the matter of resignation, the decision rests with Glubb Pasha himself, but whether or not he will have sufficient time to complete his memoirs is a different question, the solution of which may be largely influenced by intervention of outside factors.

Glubb Pasha's long and adventurous career promises to yield a rich harvest of reminiscences, the recording of which will require a long time, more time than he is likely to have. To the list of British criminals, condemned to death by the Fighters for the Freedom of Israel another name has been added. The judgment will be executed as soon as possible.